

The Presbyterian Church on Edisto Island
February 17, 2021



Prelude

Centering Words

As Christ's ambassadors to the world, let us be reconciled with God. 2 Corinthians 5

Call to Worship (Joel 2, 2 Cor 5)

Leader: A trumpet sounds from afar

People: Listen, God is calling

Leader: What does the Lord say to us?

People: Now is the time. Today is the day.

Leader: Now is the time to return to God.

People: Today is the day of our salvation.

Leader: Our sins cover us like mist upon the mountains.

People: But you, Lord, have shown us your forgiveness.

Leader: Praise our God of grace and constant compassion!

People: Thanks be to our Lord.

Special Music

Miserere mei, Deus

Gregorio Allegri

Misereri mei, Deus:

Secundum magnam misericordiam tuam.

Amplius lava me ab iniquitate mea:

Et a peccato meo munda me.

Have mercy on me, O God,

After Thy great goodness.

Wash me thoroughly from my wickedness:

And cleanse me from my sin.

Unison Prayer of Confession

Our hearts are laid bare before you, Lord. You see us as no one else does. You see past the imposter's masks we wear. O God, we come to worship you, not with empty words and hollow acts of piety, but with lonely, aching spirits. We long for the days of joy and gladness we have known with you. Fold back the darkness that surrounds us. Show us your mercy. Cover us with your grace. We return our whole hearts to you this day, as we pray humbly together:

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory, forever. Amen.

Response

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days, vs 1

St. Flavian

***Lord, who throughout these forty days for us didst fast and pray,
Teach us with Thee to mourn our sins, and close by Thee to say.***

Declaration of Forgiveness

The Lord takes little pleasure in our earthly offerings, but delights in the sacrifice of our broken spirits. God will never turn away a wounded heart. In the name of Jesus Christ, know that you are forgiven and rejoice. Thanks be to God.

Response

Lord, Who Throughout These Forty Days, vs 4

St. Flavian

***Abide with us, that so, this life Of suffering over past,
An Easter of unending joy We may attain at last!***

Prayer for Illumination

Readings from Scripture

Isaiah 58:1-12

Shout out, do not hold back!

Lift up your voice like a trumpet!
Announce to my people their rebellion,
to the house of Jacob their sins.

² Yet day after day they seek me
and delight to know my ways,
as if they were a nation that practiced
righteousness
and did not forsake the ordinance of their God;
they ask of me righteous judgments,
they delight to draw near to God.

³ 'Why do we fast, but you do not see?
Why humble ourselves, but you do not notice?'
Look, you serve your own interest on your fast-
day, and oppress all your workers.

⁴ Look, you fast only to quarrel and to fight
and to strike with a wicked fist.
Such fasting as you do today
will not make your voice heard on high.

⁵ Is such the fast that I choose,
a day to humble oneself?
Is it to bow down the head like a bulrush,
and to lie in sackcloth and ashes?
Will you call this a fast,
a day acceptable to the Lord?

⁶ Is not this the fast that I choose:
to loose the bonds of injustice,
to undo the thongs of the yoke,
to let the oppressed go free,

and to break every yoke?

⁷ Is it not to share your bread with the hungry,
and bring the homeless poor into your house;
when you see the naked, to cover them,
and not to hide yourself from your own kin?

⁸ Then your light shall break forth like the dawn,
and your healing shall spring up quickly;
your vindicator shall go before you,
the glory of the Lord shall be your rearguard.

⁹ Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;
you shall cry for help, and he will say, Here I
am.

If you remove the yoke from among you,
the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil,

¹⁰ if you offer your food to the hungry
and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness
and your gloom be like the noonday.

¹¹ The Lord will guide you continually,
and satisfy your needs in parched places,
and make your bones strong;
and you shall be like a watered garden,
like a spring of water,
whose waters never fail.

¹² Your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;
you shall raise up the foundations of many
generations;
you shall be called the repairer of the breach,
the restorer of streets to live in.

2 Corinthians 5:20b-6:10

²⁰So we are ambassadors for Christ, since God is making his appeal through us; we entreat you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God. ²¹For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.

As we work together with him, we urge you also not to accept the grace of God in vain. ²For he says,
'At an acceptable time I have listened to you,
and on a day of salvation I have helped you.'

See, now is the acceptable time; see, now is the day of salvation! ³We are putting no obstacle in anyone's way, so that no fault may be found with our ministry, ⁴but as servants of God we have commended ourselves in every way: through great endurance, in afflictions, hardships, calamities, ⁵beatings, imprisonments, riots, labours, sleepless nights, hunger; ⁶by purity, knowledge, patience, kindness, holiness of spirit, genuine love, ⁷truthful speech, and the power of God; with the weapons of righteousness for the right hand and for the left; ⁸in honour and dishonour, in ill repute and good repute. We are treated as impostors, and yet are true; ⁹as unknown, and yet are well known; as dying, and see—we are alive; as punished, and yet not killed; ¹⁰as sorrowful, yet always rejoicing; as poor, yet making many rich; as having nothing, and yet possessing everything.

Lenten Meditation & Invitation to the Discipline of Lent

Rev. Ashley Sanders

Psalter Reading

Psalm 103:8-18

The Lord is merciful and gracious, slow to anger and abounding in steadfast love. He will not always accuse, nor will he keep his anger forever.

The LORD remembers that we are dust.

He does not deal with us according to our sins, nor repay us according to our iniquities. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so great is his steadfast love towards those who fear him.

The LORD remembers that we are dust.

Far as the east is from the west, so far he removes our transgressions from us.

The LORD remembers that we are dust.

As a father has compassion for his children, so the Lord has compassion for those who fear him. For he knows how we were made; he remembers that we are dust.

The LORD remembers that we are dust.

As for mortals, their days are like grass; they flourish like a flower in the field; for the wind passes over it, and it is gone, and its place knows it no more.

The LORD remembers that we are dust.

But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him, and his righteousness to children's children, to those who keep his covenant and remember to do his commandments.

The LORD remembers that we are dust.

Closing Hymn

Now the Day is Over

MERRIAL

***Now the day is over, Night is drawing nigh,
Shadows of the evening Steal across the sky.***

***Jesus, give the weary Calm and sweet repose;
With Thy tenderest blessings May mine eyelids close.***

***Comfort those who suffer, Watching late in pain;
Those who plan some evil From their sin restrain.***

***When the morning weakens, Then may I arise
Pure, and fresh, and sinless In Thy holy eyes.***

Closing Prayer (2 Cor 6)

Leader: Though we were overwhelmed by sorrow,

People: We can rejoice in Christ.

Leader: Though we were dead,

People: we are alive in Christ.

Leader: Though we had nothing,

People: We possess everything in Christ!

Leader: In Christ, the day of deliverance has dawned!

People: Amen.

Postlude

Merrial

The Imposition of the Ashes

Please come by the church between 4:00 – 6:00 PM to receive the imposition of ashes and a symbol of new birth. Pull into the parking lot in front of the Sanctuary where Rev. Sanders and elders will be to say a prayer with you and mark your forehead or hand with the sign of the cross, remembering that from dust we came, and to dust we shall return. Then exit the parking lot by pulling out in front of the Ministry Center. Take your symbol of new birth home to plant and watch grow during Lent.

Leading Worship:

Vocals – Lisa Barnes and Heather Hutton

Music Director – Sheri Melton

Pastor – Ashley Sanders